

performance in one of the most exciting Rose Bowls in history. A team that never lost its poise and never lost a game. Charles Woodson was terrific all season long, and deserved to be the first primarily defensive player to win the Heisman Trophy. The outstanding defense was complemented by a fierce offense, quarterbacked by Rose Bowl MVP Brian Griese.

I'd also like to say a word about Coach Carr. The man who brought Michigan its first championship in 50 years, he has quickly established himself as one of the best coaches in college football. Congratulations on taking the Wolverines to the championship in only your third season.

Now I'd like to introduce you, Coach, to say a few words.

Coach Carr.

[At this point, University of Michigan Coach Lloyd Carr thanked the President and made brief remarks. Wolverine cocaptains Jon Jansen and Eric Mayes then presented gifts to the President.]

The President. Thank you. As long as I can be on injured reserve for the next game. *[Laughter]* Thank you.

And now, a team that lived up to all the great traditions of Nebraska football. The Cornhuskers' overwhelming victory in the Orange Bowl was a fantastic finish to an undefeated season. The offense put 42 points on the board, led by tailback Ahman Green's 206 rushing yards, quarterback Scott Frost's three rushing touchdowns.

The 206 yards registered with me because I was in the stands in the Orange Bowl in 1978 when Roland Sales of Arkansas rushed for 205 yards. *[Laughter]*

The Nebraska defense also did a magnificent job in stifling the Peyton Manning-led offense of Tennessee that had been so strong all year.

For Coach Tom Osborne, the Orange Bowl victory marked a spectacular close to a spectacular 25-year career that included three national championships and 255 wins. Tom Osborne is truly one of the great legends of college football. His name now will inevitably be ranked in history along with

Knute Rockne, Bear Bryant, and Pop Warner.

Congratulations, Coach, and thank you for not only all the wins, but for the way you did it and the example you set.

Coach Osborne.

[At this point University of Nebraska coach, Tom Osborne, thanked the President and made brief remarks. The new Cornhusker coach, Frank Sollege, and team captains Grant Wistrom, Jason Peter, and Aaron Taylor then presented gifts to the President.]

The President. It's beautiful. Thank you.

Now, what are we supposed to do? Usually, I'm supposed to—we're going to go out here and do the receiving line and the pictures, right?

Thanks again for coming. Congratulations to both of you on a magnificent year. And thanks for all the thrills you gave the rest of us who sit in the stands and watch on television. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:37 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Lee C. Bollinger, University of Michigan, and Chancellor James C. Moeser, University of Nebraska.

Statement on the Resignation of John Garamendi as Deputy Secretary of the Interior

April 9, 1998

It is with regret that I accept the resignation of John Garamendi as Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

For almost 3 years, John has been a very important member of my administration and has successfully handled some of the toughest and most complicated issues in one of the largest and most important agencies in the Federal Government. From California water issues to the protection of Headwaters redwoods, John's ability to find common ground and creative solutions has been a great asset.

I wish him the best for the future.

**Message on the Observance of
Easter, 1998**

April 9, 1998

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating Easter.

Just as nature renews the earth each spring, so does the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ enliven our spirits. During this holy season, Christians across America and throughout the world rejoice at the good news of salvation and the re-creation of God's perfect world.

On this day of hope and joy, we are also in the midst of one of the most challenging and exciting periods in our nation's history. From the life of Jesus, we can draw strength for the vital tasks that lie before us: to unite our nation of diverse races, cultures, and backgrounds; to widen the circle of opportunity for all our people; and to build lasting bridges of understanding and respect among the nations of the world.

As Americans gather at sunrise services and in churches across the country, Hillary joins me in extending best wishes for a blessed Easter.

Bill Clinton

NOTE: This message was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 9.

**Proclamation 7079—National
Former Prisoner of War Recognition
Day, 1998**

April 9, 1998

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Engraved on the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., are the words "Freedom Is Not Free." Generations of Americans who have served our Nation in uniform know the truth of this inscription. They have paid freedom's price by leaving behind their homes, families, and civilian lives to serve America around the globe. They have paid the price by suffering injuries and even death. And some have paid the price for our freedom by sacrificing their own as prisoners of war.

While in captivity, American prisoners of war have served our Nation with the same valor, pride, honor, and dedication as their comrades on the battlefield. American POWS have struggled for their freedom, armed with courage, wits, and an indomitable spirit. Enduring long months or years of hunger, abuse, torture, isolation, and the dreadful suspense of not knowing when—or if—they would ever be released, they have remained true to themselves and to our country.

This year we commemorate the 25th anniversary of Operation Homecoming, when we finally achieved the release of our prisoners of war from captivity in Southeast Asia. We also mark the anniversary of Operations Big Switch and Little Switch some 45 years ago, when Americans held captive during the Korean War finally came home. As these heroes returned to the open arms of their families and the grateful hearts of their fellow Americans, we saw written on their faces their deep love for our country and the faith, determination, and sense of honor that had sustained them through times of unimaginable suffering.

We can never adequately express our gratitude to those who have served our Nation while prisoners of war or to their families who experienced such anguish during years of separation. But on this day, and throughout the year, we can and should pay tribute to these extraordinary American patriots, thank them for their service and their sacrifice, and honor them always in our hearts.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 1998, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon all Americans to join me in remembering former American prisoners of war who suffered the hardships of enemy captivity. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United